

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Regular Meeting
9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 16, 2013
Online meeting via GoToMeeting and hosted
at the WSU Extension office in Friday Harbor

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Butch Klaveano (phone)	
Sarah Cooke (phone)	Rod Gilbert (phone)	
Dirk Veleke (phone)		
Bill Agosta		

Others present:

Greg Haubrich, WSDA

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

Bruce Gregory, Chairman, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board

Judy Jackson, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board

Jane Wentworth, San Juan County resident and member of the Noxious Weed Committee

Jennifer Woodridge, landscape architect

Glenn Lebsack, Clark County Vegetation Management (online)

Denielle Cowley, Clark County Vegetation Management (online)

Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board (online)

Handouts provided at meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes for March regular meeting
- Office reports for March (partial), April and May (partial)
- April budget summary and detailed worksheets
- Yellow starthistle postcard

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Moved to approve minutes for the March 2013 board meeting
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Sarah Cooke has been keeping up-to-date with the weed board budget with Alison. She also mentioned that the weather was great for weeds.
- Butch Klaveano noted that it was much drier than last year, but the grass has outgrown the weeds in some areas.

- Bill Agosta was glad to have the state weed board meeting in San Juan County. The noxious weeds are all out. Scotch broom is blooming along I-5 and is a problem on the islands, as are shiny geranium and spurge laurel.
- Dirk Veleke is out spraying weeds. The Chelan County NWCB is very active and focusing on whitetop. Notices have been sent out and spraying for this noxious weed is underway.
- Jenifer Parsons' field season has not yet started.
- Tony Stadelman has been seeing lots of puncturevine and Canada thistle is already two feet high from the hot weather.
- Rod Gilbert introduced himself to the Board. He has been a biologist at JBLM for fifteen years, focusing on prairie restoration, noxious weeds, and other prairie weeds. He is a long-time member of the Washington Native Plant Society.

OFFICE REPORTS:

The Board reviewed office reports for the second half of March, April and the first half of May.

Alison:

- Time has been flying! Wendy and Alison gave talks at the Coordinators' Conference, which was a great event this year.
- caught the flu in April and was out sick for a few days.
- Very appreciative of Sarah Reichard having her class fill out our Comparative Analytical Tool (CAT) for many of our noxious weed species. Would like to continue having CATS filled out.
- Has been working hard on her dissertation.
- Class A eradication contracts have all been drafted and signed so that county weed boards can work on their projects.
- Sat on a Washington Friends of Farm and Family panel discussion about pesticide use in Washington.
- Alison and Tony have been providing information and support to Benton County as they work to create a new county weed board and program.

Wendy:

- Has been very busy giving presentations.
- She has updated several Written Findings, with some assistance from Jenifer.
- Developed a new yellow starthistle ED/RR postcard with Jennifer Andreas.
- The State Weed Board website was successfully redesigned for smart phones. She continues to work with the website developer for other updates to the website.
- Is starting to work on Written Findings for the 2014 listing proposals.

The Board discussed:

- Whether the public lands bill that was relevant to weed control had passed. Alison will check final statuses of all bills.

WSDA UPDATE:

Greg Haubrich provided the update.

- Budget is still unknown. Legislature is still working to pass it.
- WSDA has not hired a new knotweed coordinator yet, and they sent out the RFP for knotweed control projects in hope that the funding will still be available.
- Funding for USFS Forest Healthy Protection projects has been significantly reduced, including the Integrated Weed Management Program. Greg and Alison have a meeting scheduled with USFS to talk about this and how the reduction trend might be stopped.
- Spartina is being surveyed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Alison provided the update.

- No new information about budget. Based on some of the proposed versions of the budget, there do not seem to be any major changes to the Board, but nothing is certain.
- There might be an end-of-year surplus.
- The Board had allocated \$2,500 towards road signs but only one county had expressed interest thus far, while other county weed boards were still considering it.
- Coordinators are asking for more Weed 'Em Out bags. We may pool resources with the Washington State Weed Association to reduce unit price. Or, county weed boards may be willing to combine orders with us.

The Board discussed:

- Bill asked how much the Board might be willing to use towards litter bags. Alison suggested up to \$2,500, but hopefully lower.
- Tony asked how quick the turnaround time would be for the bags. Alison explained that the company was extremely fast and were already working with WSWA.
- Sarah asked if any of the counties had voiced requests for backpack sprayers or other equipment. Alison asked if backpack sprayers would last awhile. Tony said that they could, so long as the filters were routinely cleaned after use. An MOU would be necessary. Alison can email coordinators.

REVIEW OF NOXIOUS WEED LISTING PROCESS:

Alison gave a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed the listing process for current and new Board members.

COORDINATORS' FORUM:

Alison and Wendy thanked Judy Jackson for the tour. They saw many noxious weeds and the site where the eggleaf spurge had been discovered.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Jennifer Woodridge shared her concerns with English hawthorn.

- She is working on a 40-acre site, and this invasive tree is capable of moving into all types of habitat.
- Since it is so thorny, it is difficult to work with and some people have been injured when working with the tree. The thorniness also makes it difficult to access other invasive species.
- It is a prolific seed spreader.
- They use different control methods, including cut stem with herbicide and weed wrenching. Even young plants have a deep tap root, making pulling difficult.
- She has documented density of some populations. There can be 50-100 seedlings in just one square meter.
- Some farmers have been cutting back huge stands and burning the resulting brush piles, resulting in a lot of smoke in the valley. Many people are choosing to get rid of English hawthorn and need education about best ways to control.

Judy Jackson mentioned that she is getting increasing phone calls about this species and Alison said the NWC could add it to the monitor list. It might be worth proposing for the 2015 noxious weed list since it seems to meet the criteria of a noxious weed.

MEETING EVALUATION:

The meeting will be on Thursday, July 25 at the fire station in George, and Tony will arrange a tour in the morning. Dirk noted that it was hard to hear what was being discussed, especially when the audience spoke. Alison suggested ordering another Jabra microphone/speaker and placing it by the audience next time. Sarah thought much of the discussions were clear.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to adjourn the meeting
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board